GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4839
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
SHORTAGE OF MORPHINE
Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Morphine, an analgesic to provide palliative care to the patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether assistance from the World health organisation (WHO) has been sought to procure this medicine; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (c): As per the information available with this Ministry no shortage of Morphine has been reported. The Government of India has taken steps to ensure easy availability of Morphine in the country to meet the requirements of Patients suffering from pain in terminal stages of cancer. Schedule K of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules has been amended to exempt pain and Palliative care centers approved by State Licensing Authority from the requirement of Sale License to stock and supply Morphine formulations.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.